

The purpose of this bill is to allow the National Park Service to enter into cooperative agreements with State, local, educational, and Tribal experts to restore and protect these lands from the effects of invasive plant species. The goal of this legislation is to allow the National Park Service to work with those who are best able to remove these species before they enter federal units, putting the National Park Service into a better position to preserve our native species.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to speak on this important bill.

#### HONORING GORDON AND ANITA MURCHIE FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WINE INDUSTRY

##### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me today to pay tribute to two very good friends and fellow Californians, Gordon and Anita Murchie. On the 14th of August, 1955, in the midst of family and friends, Gordon and Anita were married in the Presbyterian Church in Santa Barbara. Both had attended college at University of California at Santa Barbara. As a lifelong ambition, Gordon wanted to join the U.S. Diplomatic Service; thus, when a recruiter from the U.S. Information Agency arrived on the University of Southern California's campus where Gordon was attending graduate school, Gordon was one of the first to be interviewed. Following a quick trip to Washington, D.C. to take the language and written exam for USIA, he subsequently was offered a Foreign Service appointment.

The Murchies moved to Washington, D.C., in early 1958 as new members of that year's junior Foreign Service family. Before year's end, Gordon and Anita began their long string of Foreign Service postings, first in the Philippines, then Indonesia, and on to Thailand, where they spent the next 9 years equally divided between Udorn, in the northeast of the country, and Bangkok, the capital city.

Having learned the Thai language up-country, they both have served as interpreters, Gordon for President Johnson and Vice President Humphrey, and Anita for Lady Bird Johnson, Mrs. Joan Kennedy, Mrs. Stan Getz, and other American political and cultural representatives visiting Thailand. For his service to Thailand, he was awarded the Royal Order of the White Elephant medal by the King.

Returning to the U.S. in late 1969, Gordon attended, on government assignment, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Massachusetts where he earned a Master's Degree in International Law and Public Diplomacy. Returning to Washington, D.C., the Murchies, now with two young children, resided in the Alexandria area of northern Virginia and Anita was completing her Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology.

With things heating up in Central America, the Murchies were reassigned to the U.S. Embassy in San José, Costa Rica, for the next 4 years. Again, working as a team, they immersed themselves in the Costa Rican community and the political, economic and cultural issues of the region. While there, Anita authored the only book to comprehensively re-

search and relate the story of the Anglo-American contributions to Costa Rica from the period of Independence, 1824, to the end of that century, entitled *Imported Spices*. Gordon served as the Public Affairs Attaché at the Embassy. Gordon's last overseas assignment was as an advisor to the U.S. military in northern Iraq to establish a safe zone for the Kurds in 1991.

Having received two Superior Service Medals during his 35 years of government service, Gordon retired in 1993. Upon retirement, Gordon and Anita were asked to take on the management of the Virginia-based organization as President and Executive Secretary, which they have continued to administer to the present day. In recognition of their contributions to the growth of the Virginia wine industry, Gordon was presented the first Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. Gordon is also credited with promoting a renewed public interest in the evolution of viticulture and enology in America, from 1607 Jamestown to the present day. For the past 9 years, he has served as the wine consultant to George Washington's Mount Vernon, which conducts annual wine and history events.

The Murchies remain active participants in the support of the growth and development of the U.S. wine industry, as a whole, with particular attention to the rapid growth of the wine industry in the Commonwealth of Virginia. As a team, the Murchies are well known in the American wine industry, on Capitol Hill, and in a number of foreign communities abroad. As Gordon says of their partnership through life, he would never have been able to realize his career dreams if it had not been for the above-and-beyond-the-call-of-duty support of Anita.

As Co-Chairman of the Congressional Wine Caucus, I wish to commend and recognize the contributions of the Murchies for their lifelong work in promoting the American way of life and the democratic principles of our Nation. I wish them continued health and happiness and success in their endeavors as American ambassadors in an increasingly challenging world.

#### HONORING MICHAEL A. CONDUFF, DENTON CITY MANAGER

##### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Michael A. Conduff, retiring City Manager of Denton, Texas, for his outstanding service to the local community for the past four and a half years.

Since Mr. Conduff assumed the duties as Denton's City Manager on May 14, 2001, the City was able to accomplish many goals including the completion of the Downtown improvements, implementation of computer aided dispatch in the police department, and the opening of the North Branch Library and the Water Works Park. Mr. Conduff was also implemental in multiple economic development projects including Denton Crossing, Presbyterian Hospital of Denton, improvements to Denton Regional Medical Center, and Peterbilt expansion. Additionally, Mr. Conduff has won over 130 awards, including 3 Texas Municipal

League Awards and personal awards, during his time in Denton.

Mr. Conduff earned his B.S. in civil engineering at the University of New Hampshire, graduating Cum Laude. His M.B.A. is from Pittsburg State University. He is also a charter graduate of the Carver Policy Governance® Academy in Atlanta, Georgia, and serves on the Board of Directors and as Secretary of the International Policy Governance® Association. Prior to assuming the City Manager's position in Denton, Mr. Conduff was a nine-year City Manager of Bryan, Texas. Before he came to Texas, Mike served as City Manager in Manhattan, Kansas, home of Kansas State University, for five years. He also served as City Manager of Pittsburg, Kansas, home of Pittsburg State University, for five and a half years. Prior to his city managerial roles, Mr. Conduff was City Engineer for Pittsburg.

I am honored to today to recognize the exceptional service of Mr. Michael A. Conduff as Denton City Manager. His leadership and dedication to the improvement and development of Denton, Texas deserves the highest thanks and recognition. Michael, his wife, and grandchildren have my best wishes and prayers for the future.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2419, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

##### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 9, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the House-passed version of the legislation, this conference report is not perfect. But it is not so bad as to require opposition, and does provide funding for many important purposes. Therefore, I will vote for it.

The conference report includes a number of items of particular importance to Colorado.

In particular, I am very pleased that it includes funding for the final stages of work connected with the cleanup of Rocky Flats.

Once home to a nuclear weapons factory, Rocky Flats is located just 15 miles from downtown Denver. At one time it was the location of large quantities of nuclear materials and other hazardous substances—and because of its proximity to our state's major metropolitan area, timely and effective cleanup and closure of the site has been a matter of top priority for all Coloradans.

Just last month, the overall contractor for the cleanup, Kaiser-Hill, announced that their work was done. The Department of Energy must still confirm that, and there still must be a formal decision by state and federal regulators. But those who knew Rocky Flats as it was can hardly recognize the site as it is today.

The cleanup of Rocky Flats is a major achievement for which we can all be proud. I want to especially note the efforts of the workers and their dedication not only the security of this country, but their dedication to performing a safe and extensive demolition and decommissioning.

This was very complicated and difficult work involving dangerous and toxic materials. The